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Missouri Association For
Family & Community Education

CS 97-55

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

January 25, 1997

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The Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to urge the FCC to hold an en banc hearing as part of its formal review of the television industry's proposed rating system.

I am a member of the National Association for Family and Community Education (NAFCE). NAFCE has been actively involved in the debate over the new TV rating system and is concerned that the system proposed by the Implementation group does not address the needs of the parent. As a parent of 2 children, ages 13 and 11, I see the need for a more specific rating system that lets me know what the content of the program is.

Please continue to use your influence to encourage the development of a rating system that will be helpful to parents.

Thank you,

Debora Weigand

Debora Weigand
Children & TV / Family Life Chairman
Missouri Association for Family and
Community Education
250 SW BB Hwy
Warrensburg, MO 64093
816-747-7270

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1/28/96

Chairman Reed Hundt

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Why aren't you enforcing the Federal
broadcast indecency laws. I am disgusted
by all the smut and sleaze on TV. (DO YOUR
JOB)

Harry Decker

MR HARRY J DECKER
13 FALMOUTH AVE
ELMWOOD PARK NJ 07407

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Morality In Media • January/February 1997

3

What's wrong with new TV V-Chip 'rating system'?

By Robert Peters

There are very few films in mainstream theaters that I go to see or rent, because it is apparently believed by most in Hollywood that a film won't be popular with adults (and perhaps kids too) unless it is "seasoned" with unnecessary sex, nudity, profanity or violence. Many films are also clearly intended only for the "morally challenged." On Thanksgiving Day, however, a friend persuaded my wife to accompany her to see the film

Branagh's film remake of Shakespeare's play, "Much Ado About Nothing." It too was rated "PG-13" by the MPAA, presumably because of two brief scenes, one of brief rear-end nudity and the other of sexual contact. If these two scenes had been eliminated, I would have been watching an excellent film.

But with such a broad spectrum of films getting a "PG-13" rating from the MPAA, the

ing "nonjudgmental" age-based ratings on its films, the industry has succeeded in avoiding responsibility for producing a floodtide of morally offensive films by shifting responsibility on to parents to shield their children from the floodtide. In less than 30 years, the industry has also shifted from producing very few films that needed parental guidance to producing

that are excellent. If they allow all programs rated PG, however, they will open the door to many programs unsuitable for older children and teens. When children reach the age of 14, parents must also decide about TV programs rated PG-14 (Parents Strongly Cautioned). Programs rated PG-14 "may contain some

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

1/27/97

Dear Mr. Hundt,

We request you to enforce the Broadcast Indecency Laws against TV stations. With the dawn of the V-Chip the F. C. C must reject the flawed ratings proposal from the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) and substitute instead a system that rates programming by content, as in the case of demand.

Your prompt attention to this important matter will be appreciated. Please reply.

Sincerely yours
William J. Coughlin
Mrs. Wm. J. Coughlin
68 Riverside Ave.
Buffalo, N. Y. 14207

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Chairman Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

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FEB 24 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The government has a valid interest in protecting all Americans - both children and adults - from indecent programming. In the words of the Supreme Court, there is "a right of the Nation . . . to maintain a decent society."

Please change the commission's policy and enforce the broadcast indecency law against TV stations. Past failure in this area is a primary reason why all too much TV programming is offensive.

Also, with the dawn of the V-Chip the FCC must reject the flawed ratings proposal from the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) and substitute instead a system that rates programming by content.

We are "one Nation under God" because our founding fathers said so and because, 200 years later, we the American people, **choose** to be.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dianne Sarne (Name)

930 Lincoln Av (Address)

Pompton Lakes NJ

c: Morality in Media, 475 Riverside Dr, NYC 10115

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY

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Chairman Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

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FEB 24 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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Also, with the dawn of the V-Chip the FCC must reject the flawed ratings proposal from the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) and substitute instead a system that rates programming by content.

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Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

John A. Charba (Name)

27 Monmouth Ave (Address)

West Milford N.J.

c: Morality in Media, 475 Riverside Dr, NYC 10115

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FEB 7 1997

John Southwood
737 Oxford Hills Drive
Maryville, Tennessee 37803

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Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

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FEB 24 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioners:

I wish to comment regarding the new TV rating system.

For years the television industry has avoided responsibility for the present level of offensive material by claiming that it is the role of the parents to monitor their children's television viewing habits. This line of reasoning is false in at least two ways. First, it assumes that a parent has nothing more to do than sit with their child, or in our case any one of our four children whenever that one child desires to watch TV. Given the demands of establishing and running a modern household, this assumption is false. Second, it assumes that somehow the parents will know before the child knows when offensive material will be shown. But, the parent and the child are watching the same screen at the same time. The television industry does know what will be shown in advance, and the television industry should be expected to tell what they know as an ally of the parent. Placing a notice for 15 seconds at the beginning of a program is neither adequate nor realistic notice.

Furthermore, I am opposed in theory to the rating system based upon experience gained with the voluntary movie rating system over the past thirty years. I am afraid that this rating system which is now described as a way to protect my family from offensive material will actually grant television a license to spew even more offensive material into my home. I prefer the current social contract, but if a rating system must be used, then the rating for that show must be displayed at all times.

Many of the arguments I recall that were advanced for the movie rating system thirty years ago are now repeated for the television rating system. It appears as if everyone seeks to protect the family. However, thirty years of experience with the movie rating system undermines the reasoning this time. The result of the movie rating system is that over 70% of the movies created in the 80's were R-rated movies, or worse. Today the rate is essentially the same. One unhappy result of this explosion of violent and immoral movies is that my family and I are excluded from going to most of the movies released today. Well, if that is so for movies, does it imply that we will soon be excluded from the national dialogue taking place through television?

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100 MAIL ROOM

John Southwood
737 Oxford Hills Drive
Maryville, Tennessee 37803

Television is different from movies. I can read the advertisements and reviews of the movies before choosing to buy a ticket to attend a movie at a theater. Television is immediately available in the home without advanced permission required from my family. Once I have decided to bring a television into our home, then the signals are delivered. So, I am opposed to the current rules for the rating system for the following reasons:

1. Experience in the movie industry shows that the number of immoral and offensive broadcasts will increase dramatically. Our "protections" will become a shield that the television industry will use to justify frequent transmission of increasingly offensive material.

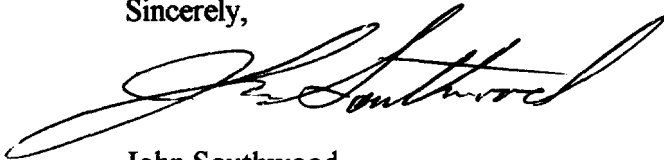
This means that the rating system should only be added to the FCC's current regulations for acceptable television, rather than functioning as a "free-market" excuse to permit further offensive material.

2. The rating system is only shown for the first 15 seconds of a show. So far, I have not seen one of these rating notices. The reality of television viewing is that "channel surfing" with the remote control is common. People walk out of the room during commercial breaks. Those ratings notices are not seen by the majority of viewers.

If the rating system must be adopted then at least those TV ratings must be required to be shown constantly using that transparent screen technology used to show cable station logos.

The television industry can produce entertaining and inoffensive material if the collective will of the people as expressed through our government agencies demand this level of material.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Southwood", written in dark ink.

John Southwood

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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Hon. Reed Hundt
F.C.C.

1919 M St N.W.

Washington DC 20554

Dear Sir:

As an American who is
offended by much of the
T.V. Programming, I would
like to see the enforcement of
the Broadcast Indecency
Laws.

The Government has a real
interest in protecting Americans
both adult & children from
indecent programming
to maintain a decent society.
Therefore, I want the
Commission to change its
policy & enforce the broadcast
indecent law against TV
stations.

With the dawn of the
V chip the FCC must
reject the flawed
ratings proposal from
Motion Picture Assn of America
& substitute instead a
system that rates
programming by content as

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parents demand.

Mrs Vera Barwick
305 Coolidge Ave
Minneapolis Dy 11501

CS 97-55 3459 Sunset Trace
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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Palm City, Florida

December 19, 1996

To:
Mr. Reed Hundt
Chairman

FCC
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hundt:
I am writing in

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reaction to the "Rating
System" proposed by
Jack Valentis.

My first and main
reaction is "Why on earth
are we leaving the ~~moral~~ code
of television programming to an
arrogant, immoral, selfish,
greedy, pompous S.O.B. like
Jack Valentis? Here is a man
who has not cared a bit about
the effect of violence on people.
Here is a man who said,
"No mere mortals are going to
tell us what to do." Excuse me -

Is he saying that HE is
NOT a mere mortal?

- Someone like him should
Not be making any decision
about programming or rating.

It is ludicrous to expect
The callous, greedy, people who
gravitate to movie production
to then govern or correct
themselves. (Much like Bill
Cosby did)

I favor a panel of
educators, psychologists and
parents advising the T.V. programs
as to what is appropriate for T.V.
during various times of the day
and night. (Those are people whose
judgement, fairness and impartiality can be
trusted) That is the only way

Center change will be effected.
for Media. Sincerely, Roberta Sydon

Copies:
① Rep. James

② Moran
Rep. Edward
Mankow